

August 9, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0792 '99 AUG 13 P1:43

Docket Numbers : 98N-1230 96P0418 97P0197

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to advise and admonish you about the following issues about forced molting of hens:

We have read the horrible suffering of these hens for greed of dirty lucre: we have knowledge of the incredible risks to public health by extended starvation and water deprivation that lead to increased shedding of *Salmonella enteritidis* by laying hens subjected to these practices.

FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

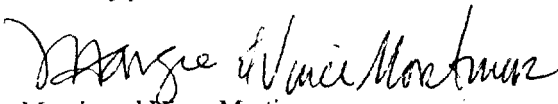
FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune system.

FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices such as forced molting that injure human health.

FDA must ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers. ***THE CRUELTY AND THE CONTAMINATION ARE LINKED!***

FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay.

Sincerely yours,



Margie and Vince Mortimer
2874 Victoria Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

96P-0418

C193



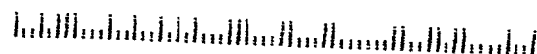
Vince & Margaret Mortimer
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THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES



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F19A
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20857/0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C193*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C194*
96P-0418/ *C193*